

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /094 W

-----067894 120107Z /63

R 101227Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0713

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USUN NEW YORK 0590

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0616

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDOR, SS, OAU

SUBJ: BONGO PRESS INTERVIEW ON OUA MATTERS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED:

1. OAU CHAIRMAN BONGO COMMENTED INTER ALIA ON OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT ON WESTERN SAHARA, ZIMBABWE, CANARY ISLANDS INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, HORN OF AFRICA (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL) AND NAMIBIA DURING COURSE MARCH 9 PRESS INTERVIEW:

A. BONGO WAS NEGATIVE ABOUT OUA COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION AT TRIPOLI TO PROVIDE LESS FINANCIAL SUPPORT THAN GOG REQUESTED TO HOST THE SPECIAL SUMMIT AT LIBREVILLE, AND THE RECOMMENDATION THAT A SPECIAL OUA SUMMIT BE CONVENED IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE JULY
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REGULAR OAU SUMMIT. HE CALLED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DECISION AN ACT OF "DISCOURTESY" AND STATED HE WOULD REFUSE TO PRESIDE OVER ANY SUCH SUMMIT RECOMMENDED UNLESS IT WERE APPROVED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL BY THE CHIEFS OF STATE.

B. ASKED ABOUT HIS POSITION ON RHODESIAN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, BONGO DECLARED OAU RECOGNITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DID NOT

AUTOMATICALLY EXCLUDE OTHER NATIONALISTS. FURTHER, HE SAID, THE PATRIOTIC FRONT ENDORSEMENT WAS FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE WHICH DID NOT NECESSARILY GUARANTEE IT POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND THAT THE OAU MUST NOW REXAMINE THE SITUATION WITH GOAL TOWARD GETTING ALL ZIMBABWEAN NATIONALISTS ENGAGED IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.

C. BONGO CALLED ERRONEOUS PRESS REPORTS THAT TRIPOLI COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING HAD RECOGNIZED THE CANARY ISLAND INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT (MPAIAC). THE ACTUAL FACT IS, HE SAID, THE COUNCIL RECOMMENDED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MPAIAC. THIS RECOMMENDATION MUST STILL BE EXAMINED BY THE CHIEFS OF STATE.

D. IN RESPONSE TO A LONG QUESTION CONCERNING OAU SUPPORT FOR SWAPO AND INTERNAL NAMIBIAN ELEMENTS NEGOTIATING WITH SOUTH AFRICA, BONGO MADE NON-STATEMENT THAT ANY INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE MUST UTILIZE THE APPROPRIATE TACTIC AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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2. COMMENT: OAU ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL KAMANDA WA KAMANDA TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 2, THAT ALGERIA HAD WITHDRAWN OFFER TO MAKE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION FOR LIBREVILLE SPECIAL SUMMIT WHICH PRESUMABLY WOULD HAVE MADE UP SHORT FALL NOT COVERED BY OAU AND PERMITTED CONFERENCE TO BE HELD. ALGERIANS APPARENTLY WANT TO SEE WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN FRENCH ELECTIONS. IF A LEFT COALITION WINS, THEY
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APPARENTLY EXPECT FRENCH SUPPORT FOR MOROCCO IN WESTERN SAHARA TO DECLINE. KAMANDA WA KAMANDA ALSO INDICATED THAT BONGO STATEMENT ON RHODESIAN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT FAIRLY ACCURATELY REFLECTED OAU CONSENSUS. TIENKEN

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